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CONSIDERATION OF EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO ENHANCE THE PROTECTION, SECURITY AND SAFETY OF DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR MISSIONS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Letter dated 29 August 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a statement concerning serious violations of the protection, security and safety of Turkish diplomatic and consular missions and representatives in Greece (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 145 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) Hüseyin E. ÇELEM
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/51/150.

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ANNEX

Turkish diplomatic and consular missions in Greece came under attack from 12 to 18 August 1996 and the Greek authorities failed to provide adequate measures for their protection, security and safety. Several incidents in Salonica, Rhodes and Komotini resulted in considerable material damage.

The incidents were not the first serious security and safety violations to take place in Greece against Turkish diplomatic and consular missions and representatives. Indeed, security violations in Greece have even led to loss of life. Four Turkish diplomats have been murdered and two wounded in the past in such attacks, not to mention material damage.

The Government of Turkey is alarmed by the repetitive nature of these acts of violence, which have taken innocent lives and violated the security and safety of Turkish diplomatic and consular missions and representatives in Greece. It is to be noted that not a single person has ever been accused, let alone convicted. The Government of Turkey has not been informed of the outcome of the investigations carried out in connection with these murders and attacks in the past.

The Government of Turkey urges the Government of Greece to take all necessary measures to prevent such actions of violence and to enhance the protection, security and safety of its diplomatic and consular missions and representatives in Greece. The Government of Turkey further appeals to the Government of Greece to comply with its obligations under the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, the 1963 Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, the 1973 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents and other relevant international instruments.

The Government of Turkey finally expresses its hope that the perpetrators of these heinous crimes will be brought to justice by the Greek authorities.